

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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R 121056Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY RABAT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 996
INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
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AMEMBASSY LOME
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USUN NEW YORK 1241
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 0802

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PORG, OAU, SS
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY VIEWS ON SPECIAL OAU SAHARA SUMMIT,
AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT, AND FOREIGN MINISTER'S MIDDLE
EAST TRAVELS

REF ADDIS ABABA 0785 (NOTAL)

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON MFA SECGEN ABDELHAKIM IRAQUI FEBRUARY 11.
IRAQUI HAD RECENTLY RETURNED FROM KINSHASA, WHERE HE HAD ATTENDED
AFRICAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL MEETING. IRAQUI COMMENTED ON FOLLOWING:

2. SPECIAL OAU SAHARA SUMMIT: NUMEROUS AFRICAN COUNTRIES AND
OAU SECGEN ETEKI NOW REALIZED THAT THEY HAD BEEN HASTY IN EARLY
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DELIBERATIONS ON THE SAHARA, ACCORDING TO IRAQUI. SOME OF THE NINE
AFRICAN STATES WHICH HAD RECOGNIZED THE SAHARAN DEMOCRATIC ARAB
REPUBLIC (SDAR) WERE NOW COMING AROUND TO MORE BALANCED
POSITION, ALTHOUGH THEY COULD NOT ABRUPTLY WITHDRAW RECOGNITION.
IRAQUI MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THAT HE HAD HAD CONVERSATIONS
IN KINSHASA WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF TOGO AND MADAGASCAR, AND THAT
MAURITANIAN PRESIDENT OULD DADDAH HAD WORKED SUCCESSFULLY ON TOGOLESE

PRESIDENT EYADEMA.

3. DIMINISHING AFRICAN INTEREST IN HOLDING SPECIAL SUMMIT, IRAQUI CONTINUED, WAS INFLUENCED BY RECOGNITION THAT MOST ARAB COUNTRIES IN A POSITION TO HELP POOR AFRICAN COUNTRIES FAVORED MOROCCO IN THE SAHARA DISPUTE. THUS, AFRICANS WERE BECOMING LESS INCLINED TO TAKE POSITIONS WHICH MIGHT PREJUDICE THEIR CHANCES OF OBTAINING ARAB FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.

4. ON MECHANICS OF ORGANIZING A SPECIAL SUMMIT, IRAQUI EXPLAINED THAT ONLY SEVEN AFRICAN STATES HAD REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY TO OAU CIRCULAR NOTE SUGGESTING THE MEETING BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 15. MORE RECENTLY, ETEKI HAD SENT ANOTHER CIRCULAR PROPOSING APRIL 18-20. GOM EXPECTED AFRICAN RESPONSE AGAIN TO FALL WELL BELOW REQUIRED QUORUM AND THAT MEETING WOULD IN FACT NOT BE HELD. MOROCCO WOULD CONSIDER ITS RESPONSE AFTER REQUIRED TWO-THIRDS IN FAVOR OF SPECIAL SUMMIT HAD BEEN ATTAINED. AS TO SITE OF MEETING, IRAQUI NOTED THAT NIGERIA, GHANA, ETHIOPIA, AND MALI HAD ALREADY DECLINED TO HOST.

5. AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT: IRAQUI CHARACTERIZED THE UPCOMING CAIRO MEETING AS VERY IMPORTANT. THE AFRICANS WERE ANXIOUS TO OBTAIN ARAB FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, AND ARABAS HOPED FOR AFRICAN POLITICAL SUPPORT IN ANTICIPATION OF NEW ROUND OF MIDDLE EAST DIPLOMACY. IRAQUI ADDED THAT THERE WAS A "VERY STRONG CHANCE" THAT KING HASSAN WOULD ATTEND. IF BOUMEDIENE WERE ALSO TO ATTEND, THERE WAS AN OFF CHANCE THAT UNDER THE PRESSURE OF THEIR COLLEAGUES THE TWO MIGHT GET TOGETHER TO DISCUSS ALGERIAN-MOROCCAN DIFFERENCES, AND SUCH A MEETING MIGHT "EVENTUALLY" LEAD TO PROGRESS, CONFIDENTIAL

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HE SPECULATED. IN VIEW OF WHAT HE TERMED THE FAILURE OF SAUDI "GOOD OFFICES," POSSIBILITY OF HASAN-BOUMEDIENE MEETING TOOK ON ADDED IMPORTANCE, IN IRAQUI'S VIEW.

6. FONMIN LARAKI'S TRAVELS: IRAQUI SAID THAT KING HASSAN HAD SENT LARAKI ON CURRENT MISSION TO JORDAN, SYRIA AND EGYPT IN ORDER TO BE KEPT INFORMED ABOUT THINKING OF ARAB LEADERS. HASSAN WISHED TO KEEP UP TO DATE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THERE WAS ANY USEFUL ROLE FOR HIM TO PLAY AND IN EVENT HE DECIDED TO GO TO CAIRO HIMSELF.

7. COMMENT: ON PLANNING FOR OAU SPECIAL SUMMIT, THERE IS OBVIOUSLY A LARGE DISCREPANCY BETWEEN MOROCCAN DESCRIPTION AND COMMENTS OF OAU OFFICIAL PETER ONU REPORTED REFTEL. WHILE NUMBERS ARE DIFFICULT TO VERIFY, MOROCCANS AND MAURITANIANS APPEAR TO HAVE STRENGTHENED THEIR DIPLOMATIC POSITION IN AFRICA CONSIDERABLY SINCE MAURITIUS SUMMIT. ANDERSON

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